\<Date\>

\<Phys. Name\>
\<Address\>

Dear \<Phys. Name\>

The \<Center Name\> is conducting a study of selected pregnancies in the area. In connection with our surveillance of birth defects, we find that we need more information than is routinely contained in hospital records. In this regard, we would like to ask to for your assistance. According to the hospital records, one of your patients, \<Patient Name\> has a possible defect. Unfortunately, we cannot determine from the available medical records, enough specific information to determine whether or not this birth defect meets our case definition criteria.

We would like to speak with you regarding this patient. Our study coordinator, \<Name\>, will call you in the near future to speak with you further. If it is determined that your patient's birth defect actually does meet the case definition, we will then send a letter requesting participation to your patient's mother. If there is any reason we should not proceed with contacting the patient's mother, please let us know.

As described in the enclosed pamphlet, the \<Center Name\> is one of the eight Centers for Birth Defects Research and Prevention taking part in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. Participation in the study will be completely voluntary. Women who take part in the study are interviewed about their pregnancies to discover clues about what causes birth defects… and how to prevent them.

We will be collecting information on pregnancy history, family history of congenital defects, nutrition, lifestyle factors, street drug use, sexually transmitted diseases, occupation and other exposures that may have occurred during pregnancy. This information will be collected from mothers of babies with birth defects as well as mothers of babies without birth defects. Trained professionals will conduct all of the interviews over the telephone, and no mother will be contacted until at least 6 weeks after her delivery. No information collected in the interview will be released in any form that could identify you or your patient.